



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

SAUL EWING L.L.P. (HARRISBURG)
ATTN: PATENT DOCKET CLERK
PENN NATIONAL INSURANCE PLAZA
2 NORTH SECOND STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17101

COPY MAILED

AUG 29 2008

In re Patent No. 6,001,296	:	
Issue Date: December 14, 1999	:	
Application No. 08/824,943	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: March 27, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. 355940.00040-01	:	

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed July 29, 2008 to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.


This patent expired on December 15, 2007 for failure to pay the seven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

It is not apparent whether the statement of unintentional delay was signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the delay in filing a timely response was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was in fact unintentional, petitioner must make such an inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was intentional, petitioner must so notify the Office.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Joan Olszewski at (571) 272-7751.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.


Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions